

The Tragedie of Hamlet

Stood challenger on mount of all the age  
For her perfections, but my reuenge will come.

*King.* Breake not your sleepes for that, you must not thinke  
That we are made of stuffe so flat and dull,  
That we can let our beard be shooke with danger,  
And thinke it pastime, you shortly shall heare more,  
I loued your father, and we loue our selfe,  
And that I hope will teach you to imagine.

*Enter a Messenger with Letters.*

*Messen.* These to your Maiestie, this to the Queene;

*King.* From Hamlet, who brought them?

*Mess.* Saylers my Lord they say, I saw them not,  
They were giuen me by *Clandio*, he receiued them  
Of him that brought them.

*King.* *Laertes* you shall heare them: leaue vs.  
High and mighty, you shall know I am set naked on your kingdom,  
to morrow shall I begge leaue to see your kingly eyes, when I shal first  
asking you pardon, there-vnto recount the occasion of my suddaine  
returne.

*King.* What should this meane, are all the rest come backe,  
Or is it some abuse, and no such thing?

*Laer.* Know you the hand?

*King.* Tis *Hamlets* caraster. Naked,  
And in a postscript heere he sayes alone,  
Can you deuise me?

*Laer.* I am lost in it my Lord, but let him come,  
It warms the very sicknes in my hart  
That I liue and tell him to his teeth  
Thus didst thou.

*King.* If it be so *Laertes*,  
As how should it be so, how otherwise,  
Will you be rul'd by me?

*Laer.* I my Lord, so you will not ore rule me to a peace.

*King.* To thine owne peace, if he be now returned  
As the King at his voyage, and that he meanes  
No more to vndertake it, I will worke him  
To an exployt, now ripe in my deuise,  
Vnder the which he shall not choose but fall:

And

Prince of Denmark

And for his death no wind of blame shal  
But euen his Mother shall vncharge the  
And call it accedent.

*Laer.* My Lord I will be rul'd,  
The rather if you could deuise it so  
That I might be the organ.

*King.* It falls right,  
You haue beene talkt of since your tra-  
And that in *Hamlets* hearing, for a qua-  
Wherein they say you shine, your sum-  
Did not together plucke such enuie from  
As did that one, and that in my regard  
Of the vnworthiest sledge.

*Laer.* What part is that my Lord?

*King.* A very ribaud in the cap of youth  
Yet needfull to, for youth no lesse becom-  
The light and carelesse liuery that it we-  
Then settled age, his fables, and his wee-  
Importing health and grauenes; two n-  
Heere was a gentleman of *Normandy*,  
I haue seene my selfe, and seru'd again-  
And they can well on horsebacke, but  
Had witch-craft in't, he grew vnto his  
And to such wondrous dooing broug-  
As had he beene incorp'st, and demy r-  
With the braue beast, so farre he topt  
That I in forgerie of shapes and tricks  
Come short of what he did.

*Laer.* A Norman wast?

*King.* A Norman,

*Laer.* Vppon my life *Lamord*.

*King.* The very same.

*Laer.* I know him well, he is the br-  
And Iem of all the Nation.

*King.* He made confession of you,  
And gaue you such a masterly report  
For art and exercise in your defence,  
And for your Rapier most especiall,  
That he cride out it would be a sight i